

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANJUL 00702 280949Z  
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00  
FCC-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 ICA-20 COME-00 BIB-01  
DOE-15 ACDA-12 DODE-00 PM-05 L-03 NASA-02 NSC-05  
SOE-02 SS-15 OES-07 PA-02 SP-02 /140 W  
-----085191 290710Z /15

R 280845Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5495  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BANJUL 0702

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ETEL ANET GA  
SUBJECT: NEW SATELLITE EARTH STATION INAUGURATED IN THE GAMBIA

1. THE GAMBIA ENTERED SPACE AGE APRIL 25 WITH INAUGURATION OF STANDARD B SATELLITE EARTH STATION, WHICH NOW HANDLES ALL OF COUNTRY'S INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEX SERVICE. STATION WAS BUILT IN 4 MONTHS TIME AT COST OF "OVER ONE MILLION POUNDS STERLING" BY CABLE & WIRELESS LTD, WHICH HANDLES GAMBIA INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS.

2. GALA CEREMONY TUESDAY EVENING, LED BY PRESIDENT JAWARA AND CABLE AND WIRELESS BOARD CHAIRMAN, LORD GLENAMARA, WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY INITIAL TELEPHONE CALLS TO GAMBIA HIGH COMMISSIONERS IN LAGOS AND LONDON, AS WELL AS DIRECT TELECAST FROM BBC STUDIO IN LONDON TO BANJUL AUDIENCE. CONSTRUCTION OF STATION IS TRIBUTE TO GAMBIA STABILITY AND FAITH IN ITS FURTHER ECONOMIC EXPANSION.

3. ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED INFORMATION, LOCAL STATION HAS DISH ANTENNA WIDTH OF 13 METERS, DESIGNED TO INTELSAT STANDARD B SPECIFICATIONS. IT HAS BEEN EQUIPPED FOR 8 CHANNEL UNITS,  
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PROVIDING VOICE CHANNELS ENGINEERED TO HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. STATION TRANSMITS AND RECEIVES SIGNALS THROUGH SPECIALIZED COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE STATIONED 22,300 MILES OVER ATLANTIC OCEAN.

4. NEW FACILITY HAS ALREADY PROVIDED VASTLY IMPROVED TELEPHONE SERVICE, AS TESTED IN CALL FROM EMBASSY TO DEPARTMENT

APRIL 26. EMBASSY'S LEASED CIRCUIT TO LONDON NOW PASSES VIA  
NEW SATELLITE CONNECTION. BANJUL'S TRADITIONAL ISOLATION HAS  
RETREATED MAJOR STEP INTO HISTORY WITH INSTALLATION THIS EARTH  
STATION. WYGANT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMUNICATION SATELLITES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BANJUL00702  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3006446  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW SATELLITE EARTH STATION INAUGURATED IN THE GAMBIA  
**TAGS:** ETEL, ANET, GA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/caa661b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
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